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DE RUEHKO #1748 2120148 ZNY CCCCC ZZH R 310148Z JUL 09 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5041 INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0383 RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 0342 RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 6551 RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0623 RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 2277 RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6835 RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0742 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 0793 RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 1112 RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 4180 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 0396

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 001748

SIPDIS

NEA/RA JSHAUNFIELD, NEA/ELA MGREGONIS, NEA/IPA KFRELICH AMMAN FOR MBHALLA TEL AVIV FOR PROHRLICH

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/30/2019

TAGS: SENV PREL JA

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED: ASSESSMENT OF JORDAN-ONLY RED

SEA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

REF: STATE 78652

Classified By: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES JAMES P. ZUMWALT FOR REASONS 1.4(B),(D)

(C) Emboff delivered reftel inquiry to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) First Middle East Division Principal Deputy Director Akihiro Tsuji July 30. Tsuji said he was not aware of a GOJ position on the Jordan-only project and its relation to the World Bank-sponsored Red Sea-Dead Sea conveyance project (RDS). However, he said Japan remains committed to the RDS. Tsuji noted Japan has contributed \$2 million to the RDS feasibility study, and King Abdullah and Prime Minister Aso spoke about the project during Abdullah's visit to Tokyo in April 2009. Tsuji said he also understands Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shalom is a strong advocate of the RDS.